



State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> • Email: info@waterboards.ca.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2007

SWRCB 07-19

Contact: Liz Kanter
916-327-8239

**STATE WATER BOARD DRAFTS POLICY RESPONDING TO NEW
LEGISLATION FOR INSTREAM FLOWS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**

SACRAMENTO—Responding to new legislation, the State Water Resources Control Board staff has drafted guidelines for maintaining adequate flows of water in North Coast streams and rivers.

Acting in response to the mandates of AB 2121 (Chapter 943, Statutes of 2004), the five-member State Water Board will consider the proposed guidelines in 2008.

AB 2121 requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt guidelines to determine how much water must remain in the North Coast streams to protect salmon and other fish and to follow those guidelines when considering more than 310 pending applications to appropriate water from North Coast streams.

If adopted, the policy would apply to water diversions from streams in five counties: Marin, Sonoma, and parts of Mendocino, Napa and counties.

The Water Board staff has released the draft policy which starts a public comment period and scientific peer review. The scientific peer review will extend for 30 days and the public review period will run concurrently for 45 days.

Under California law and policy, the state acts as guardian for in stream needs for aquatic habitat, recreation, and navigation, and must balance the needs of other uses against in stream requirements and other environmental uses.

The draft policy can be read on the State Water Boards' Web site at:
http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/HTML/instreamflow_nccs.html

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